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Cover One: Bonnie Rotten; photo: Christian Saint; stylist: Savannah Wyatt; hair: Kate Alley; make up: Jenai Chin; nails: Casandra Lamar.
Cover Two: Machine Gun Kelly; photo: Brian Ziff; stylist: Mia Colona + Ryan Ulsh.



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editor-in-chief rocky rakovic
creative director ian sami hajar
photo editor stephanie r. guttenplan
digital imaging specialist jessica h. dean

contributing writers
jonah bayer, matt bertz, anja cadlek, nick fierro, gil macias, leander schaerlaeckens, jessica wilde

contributing photographers
chad griffith, kareem black, justin cardwell, andi watkins, willie t, polina yamshchikov, mark mann,
michael kraus, robert chamorro, rc rivera

interns
erika curcio

sales kristine cummings / kristine@quadramediallc.com
sales assistant melanie (czoka) simmons / melanie@inkedmag.com
laura robertson

web editor charlie connell
media manager cassie furnare
social media amanda colston
kristie kovats
jaime pietzsch
randy trost
jenna romanine

director of ecommerce ted bockius
brand manager dylan c. houser
vendor support manager steve pearlman
fulfillment assistant joesph garrett

inkedshop store manager james delaney
customer service lisa thompson

inkedshop catalog managers woody kumetat
marketing designer jasmin chawla
office manager arielle lupo

international licensing john cabell, 303-449-9194
cabell@cueballdigital.com

magazine office inked magazine
12 west 27th st., 10th floor
new york, ny 10001
corporate office quadra media llc
174 middletown blvd., #301
langhorne, pa 19047
website inkedmag.com

president donald hellinger
chief revenue officer andrew hersamj
executive assistant jami pearlman
head of accounts receivable chris watson
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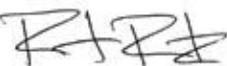


"I aim to provide the public with beneficial shocks," Alfred Hitchcock said. "Civilization has become so protective that we're no longer able longer able to get our goose bumps instinctively. The only way to remove the numbness and revive our moral equilibrium is to use artificial means to bring about the shock." Basically, the Master of Suspense was saying that we have gone soft; fearing for our frigging lives used to be a regular—and he claims healthy—human experience. We can thank our forefathers like Abraham Lincoln for taking out all the vampires and domesticating the planet so we don't have to live in constant fear of non-undead beings, but that animalistic emotion has atrophied in our race, perhaps leaving us vulnerable for the imminent zombie apocalypse.

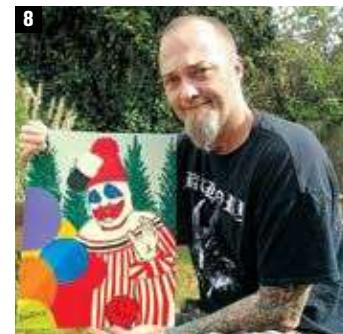
Throughout the pages of this our Horror Issue and Celebration of the Day of the Dead we'll try to get your heart rate up. Crystal Molina (1) painted calavera make-up on model Madzilla's face for our appreciation of Dia de los Muertos. The lettering on Madzilla's feature "Ink Es La Piel Del Alma" was done by Alan P (3) and translates into "Ink Is the Skin of the Soul." Darius Baptist (6) styled Madzilla, along with our Skeleton in the Closet (7) for "Bone Up on Fall Fashion." We got sick of seeing impossibly skinny fashion models in spreads and ads so we enlisted an actual skeleton to put on this season's looks.

A substantial man, Kristian Nairn, was interviewed by Charlie Connell. You may know Nairn as Hodor from *Game of Thrones*, but did you know that he throws raves? Connell'll take you to the party Nairn hosted at Irving Plaza much like he is carrying me ala Hodor and Bran in the terrible cut-and-paste job below (5). Coincidentally, another subject who welcomed us to Irving Plaza to watch him do his thing was superstar tattooed pastor Carl Lentz, writer Leander Schaerlaeckens followed him there (and all over New York City) during a day when Lentz gave nine sermons. A man well acquainted with sinners, murderabilia dealer Eric Holler (8) presents art works from serial killers such as John Wayne Gacy and Charles Bronson.

Photographer Robert Chamarro (4) provides a deeply beautiful and tremendously haunting shoot for our own spin on American Horror Story: Hotel "Do You Have Any Baggage?" Over the following pages we hope to quicken your pulse, activate your sweat glands and ripple your tattoos with goose bumps.



Rocky Rakovic
Editor-In-Chief
editor@inkedmag.com



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WE CAN GIVE IT TO YOU BUT WHATCHA YOU GON DO WITH IT? Art is ever evolving, that's why we try to publish the best in the world. But when we produce an issue we hope that's not the end of the artistic flow, we want you to be inspired to create your own art or remix what we have presented. For instance check out what Julio Cesar (@mz09art) did with our Christy Mack by Christian Saint cover shoot for the last Sex Issue. We know that most of you are so damn creative that we want to see what you've done with Inked. Have you gotten a tattoo based off one of our images? Have you used something in our pages for reference in your own art project? Have you made a bitchin' paper airplane? Send a pic into editor@inkedmag.com

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TATTOO OF THE MONTH



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BONNIE ROTTEN

Dani Rivera Nothing sexier than a pizza bikini

C Rz Now that's a deep dish pizza

Rebecca Lowe Sexy lady, and I [normally] like men....you rock it girl

Samantha Molnar Absolutely obsessed with this babe!

MACHINE GUN KELLY

Erin Kay Henderson Tattoos are such a gorgeous piece of art that express the soul. Especially on an such a talented [musical] artist.

Gabriel O'Donnell I'm not really a fan of MGK but at least dude stands for something he's not just a jackass like every other rapper out now

Stu John Hearns I hate the new school style of hip hop but he is killing it.

CAMI LI

Manuel Jacob Loya III I love looking at the pics no doubt but I also dig the interview. I think Cami is so entertaining. She definitely has that adult humor that I like. Good job Cami.

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PHOTOS BY JUSTIN CARDWELL





Kayla Sorrells

"It's a toss up between my pelvic plate and the *Star Trek* tribute piece on my abdomen. The pelvic plate is actually the female reproductive system in tattoo form. It serves as a sweet warning with the cupcake and skulls and snakes. It could be looked at like Adam and Eve but I prefer a cupcake over an apple! The *Star Trek* piece I adore because growing up I only had three channels. I watched *Star Trek* every night, and I loved Vulcans. I planned the piece years ago but kept putting it off. When Leonard Nimoy passed away this year, I finally went through with it as tribute. 'Live long and prosper' is a great mantra for life! And the second part is '7 of 9' which was another of my favorite characters. She was so dang sexy!"

Blazer Schaffer

I have two favorite tattoos. A large black astrological scorpion on my lower back that actually has my deceased son's ashes mixed into it and a *Dr. Who* Tardis in my armpit. The armpit tattoo was done by Change Wilson at High Class Piercing and Tattoo. Having the right artist makes all the difference for me. I am fortunate enough to have found an artist that can take my words and translate them visually into exactly what I want, someone who feels my tattoos, and their importance to me. You can see that in his work. Each tattoo on my body tells a story about a moment in my timeline. They can mark a deep and intense moment in my life or something fun and silly that makes me smile.

"A tattoo may enhance a woman's beauty by making her more interesting to look at, but more than that tattoos are beautiful because they give so much depth. Through them women have put their life before me to admire. Every shape, every curve, every design—even the placement. Women are mysterious creatures. Their tattoos only add to their puzzle. Wow, I am obviously a lesbian."

"I probably get complimented the most on the details in my tattoos. At first glance it is obvious that I am tattooed but when they look closer they can see that there's so much more there." ■



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PHOTO NEGATIVES

welcome to a grave new world

Jane Long
Queensland, Australia

While looking for photographs to sharpen her retouching skills Jane Long stumbled across the Flickr archives of Romanian World War I and post-war photographer Costica Ascinte. "There was something about the subjects that appealed to me—people trying to live a simple life in the middle of a war-torn area, trying to rebuild," she says. Long didn't just add color to the near-century-old photographs she inserted whimsy.

"For the most part I want to put them into a different world," she says. "It's naive, I know, but I wanted them to be in a place where

they could be happy and carefree." Back when few people smiled in photographs—and certainly the Romanians of Ascinte's work had little to make them grin—the expressionless subjects are wonderfully fascinating in their new environment.

Perhaps the most interesting thing about Long's labor is the differing reactions [seriously, show this spread and the next to anyone around you]. The emotions range from being chilled to delighted to outraged on behalf of the subjects. But Long has considered the souls of their, now, most-lasting images. "I'd like to think they'd like them, that

they understand that my intention is not to disrespect them but to honor them," she says. "I think colorizing the images makes it easier for us to relate to the subjects, we begin to see them as more like ourselves and in doing so we have a greater empathy for the hardships they faced. I'd like people to look at them and smile and think about what it would be like to have duck feet or to keep a trained goldfish for a minute or two. Just a moment to brighten their day. And if they stop and think a little about the people in the original images and the lives they lived then that's a bonus!" —Anja Cadlek



photo by Daniil Kolodin





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"HONEY, I'M AT THE OFFICE"

THE GORGEOUS CAT MARINI WORKS AT THE CLEVERLY-NAMED BAR, THE OFFICE, IN SAN CARLOS, CA—A COLIN KAEPERNICK FLICK AWAY FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

WHAT'S THE ATMOSPHERE LIKE AT THE OFFICE?

It's pretty laid back unless there's a sports game on, then it's every man for himself!

A CUSTOMER WALKS OVER TO THE BAR DURING A BUSY SHIFT AND SAYS "MAKE ME SOMETHING GOOD" WHAT'S YOUR MOVE?

I will Mule the shit out of anyone! I usually make mine with Jameson or Bulleit, a lil' lime, splash of Sprite and some ginger beer.

WHICH OF YOUR TATTOOS GETS THE MOST ATTENTION FROM CUSTOMERS?

The medusa on my thigh by Mitch Anderson of Blackthumb in Salt Lake City. I get asked about it at least once every shift.

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST REQUEST YOU'VE GOTTEN FROM A CUSTOMER?

I've had people ask if they can buy the shirt that I'm wearing.

WE HEAR YOU HAVE SEATS FROM CANDLESTICK PARK.

We do, they add a little vintage touch to our fire pits. Everyone loves them.

ARE YOU A 49ERS FAN?

Am I allowed to say I'm not a 49ers fan? I'm originally a Cardinals fan but, the two bars I've worked in have been 49ers bars, so I guess I can show them a little love.

IF SOMEONE WALKS IN WEARING A SEAHAWKS JERSEY, HOW POLITELY DO YOU TELL THEM TO FUCK OFF?

Seahawks are a bitter subject, more so because their fans are a pain in the ass [laughs]. I literally had three or four tabs with over \$1500 on them each during Super Bowl try to walk out without paying after they lost. They're lucky I'm a lady....

YOU GUYS ALSO HAVE A BOCCE BALL COURT. ANY BOCCÉ RELATED INJURIES THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT?

Not yet, but, hey, football season is just starting.





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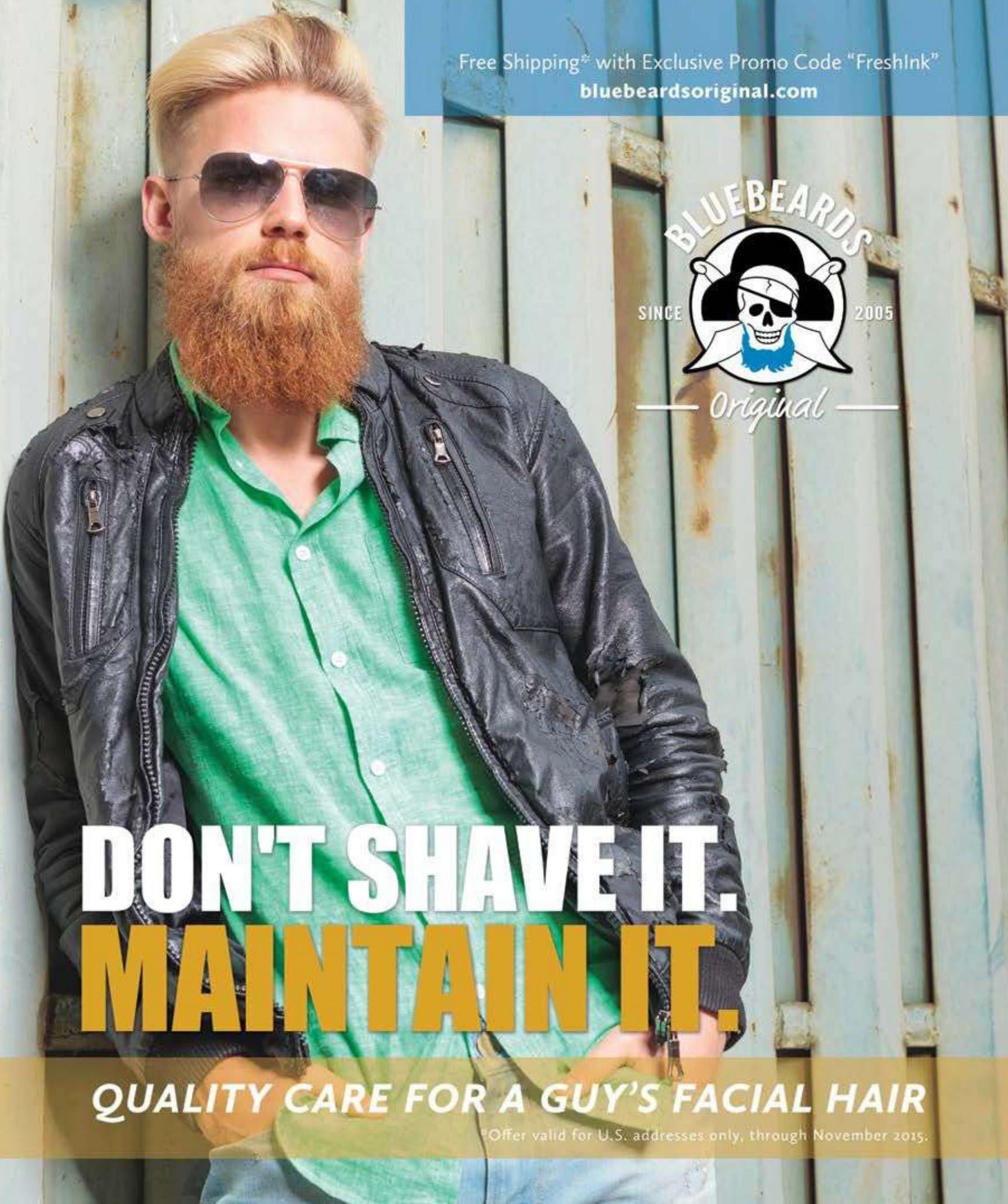
Out of Your Gourd

Tis the season where everything is “pumpkin spiced” from your girlfriend’s lattes to your nephew’s M&Ms but what about you?

Here are four smashing pumpkin beverages: Blue Moon Harvest Pumpkin Ale, Sons of Liberty Pumpkin Spice Flavored Whiskey, Shmaltz Brewing Company and Terrapin Beer Company’s Reunion Ale ‘15, and Great Lakes Distillery Pumpkin Seasonal Spirit.



Photo by Michael Kraus



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HOUSE STARK MUSIC

Two things you may not know about the actor who plays Hodor on *Game of Thrones*: Kristian Nairn has tattoos on his face and is a house DJ fresh off a tour called “Rave of Thrones.” Welcome to Nairnia.

By Charlie Connell Photos by Kareem Black

Irving Plaza is pulsating to house music. Every half-second the strobing lights gives one the experience of being in a vacuum with the amazing sound and then illuminates the crowd to reveal a wave of revellers being controlled by an enormous man on the decks. The New York City party set, well used to writhing with international stars, take the chant of local hero Jay-Z, "Ho-va! Ho-va!" and flip it for today's host: "Ho-dor! Ho-dor!"

Yes, the man who plays Hodor on *Game of Thrones* is a house DJ and, yes, he is tattooed.

While Hodor is known as a man of few words (well, just one word to be exact, if you don't have HBO the only thing the character says is his own name, just Google "Hodor" right now and see what comes up), Kristian Nairn is verbose and animated, especially when the conversation turns towards music. His eyes light up and a massive grin comes across his face as he explains how he came to be a DJ.

"I came in because I had a massive music collection and I wanted to share it with people," Nairn says. "I wanted to share what I felt about music with other people. DJing is a great way to do it, and that fact that you get paid to do it is simply wonderful to me."

While seemingly every celebrity with a laptop seems to fancy themselves a DJ, Nairn has been behind the turntables keeping the party going for decades. Long before he even tried his hand at acting, Nairn had a residency in his hometown of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Over a period of more than 14 years he got to know the crowd that came out to Kremlin. "They get used to you, you get used to them, and they start to know what sort of songs they're going to get each week. It's quite comfortable."

All of that comfort was thrown out the window when Nairn gave up his residency to take the show on the road with his Rave of Thrones tour. When we say that he gave up his comfort we mean it quite literally—the seven-footer doesn't have an enormous tour bus to relax in, he flies commercial. During just one week of the tour he hit Atlanta, Scotland and Texas. In that order.

Back in Belfast the crowds knew what to expect when they came out to see him and, more importantly, Nairn knew what the crowd wanted to hear. There aren't a whole lot of similarities between crowds in New York and Singapore but it is vital that the DJ finds a way to connect with them both.

"You need to be able to visualize how you think the crowd will react," Nairn explains. "It's like a conversation between the crowd and the DJ—I'll give them some then I mix it up to keep our energies at a similar level. If I was just playing all the big tracks, all the hits, anyone can do that. They want to hear something that says something about me, hopefully."

Judging by the throngs of fans showing up at his shows Nairn's hopes have been fulfilled. Looking out on the fans as he does his thing, Nairn has noticed that his crowds look a little bit different than those of his peers. "Well, club kids don't often wear armor," Nairn laughs. "*Game of Thrones* is sacks, armor and dragon heads. You're not going to see a lot of UV or Sesame Street characters."

Some DJs would likely be a little flummoxed by looking out on the crowd and

seeing a kid holding a (stuffed) severed wolf's head in the air as they dance, Nairn sees kindred spirits. His affinity with nerd culture is written all over his body in his tattoos. It is the portrait on his left arm—a black-and-grey depiction of Sylvanas Windrunner from *World of Warcraft*—that earns him the most nerd-cred. "She has a very interesting back story. I don't want to say I related to it because I'm not an undead banshee, but there is something about her story that speaks to me."

Standing in stark contrast to the stars that adorn the right side of his face, most of the tattoos on Nairn's left side are morose in subject matter. Opposite the undead banshee on his arm is a tattoo inspired by *Watership Down*—a black rabbit representing death and a line about not fearing the end when it comes. On the back of his neck Nairn has the word "dead" tattooed.

"I'm a bit morose, I've always been into the darker stuff," Nairn explains. "I was the guy listening to Obituary and Sepultura. I was the guy with the long black hair and a crucifix on my head, upside down. I was that guy and seven foot tall—it was kind of scary."

Back to those stars on his face, the stars that seem to radiate cheer when Nairn grins. They provide a counterweight to all of the darkness wrapped up in his other tattoos. And while his other tattoos are filled with symbolism and meaning the stars were just the random choices of a 19-year-old.

"The funny thing is, well, I was drunk," Nairn explains. "But I swear on my grandmother's grave that I've never regretted them. It's just part of who I am now. It's not Mike Tyson; it's not like a big fucking claw. It's actually quite subtle, I love them."

In fact, Nairn is considering adding onto the constellation, but only for an important life event. "Maybe the birth of a child, obviously not mine (laughs). Or maybe making it to level 110 in *Warcraft*..."

A tattoo would be the perfect way to celebrate the end of Hodor's journey when *Game of Thrones* comes to a close. While Nairn didn't appear on the last season of the show, his character has not faded from fans' memories. Having a catchphrase can be a bitch for an actor, and while most people don't often yell it to him, he says that they tend to do so only at the most inopportune times. "At traffic lights, when I can't go anywhere, and I'm just like, Oh my God, praying for the light thinking, fuck off." Nairn advises that you'll get a better response if you come up and start a conver-

sation. Just don't ask for a piggyback ride, that privilege is reserved for Bran Stark.

Being part of a cultural phenomenon like *Game of Thrones* can be a bit much for some actors, especially the constant attention that they receive. Nairn had a little easier time than many considering that he has often been the subject of strangers' attention for years thanks to his size. It was this attention that led indirectly to his first ink—a nuclear symbol on his wrist.

"All my life I have had to deal with people saying 'How'd you get so big?' and all sorts of that shit," Nairn says. "I used to tell people that I lived too close to the power plant. It was a deflection story."

"I've had to own a lot of things about myself, that's the only way," Nairn continues. "There's no point in not owning it, it's not going to go away. It's everyone else's problem, it's not mine." ■



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photos by Mark Mann
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GASOLINE GLAMOUR "JUDAS" BLACK LACE HEADPIECE AND "THIS MEANS WAR" PUMPS





Madzilla (Madelyn Lance) is living the life. She models, DJs, smokes a ton of weed and has collaborations with Sprayground and Asphalt Yacht Company. Her body is a celebration of art and her booty is a thing of beauty.

When did you know that you were able to live a creative life?

My whole life has been pretty crazy from the start. My parents were more open-minded and free spirited people. I grew up very creative and always loved painting and art itself in different forms. Ever since I can remember I always knew I was going to live a very creative and wild life.

Do you see modeling as an art form?

Yes. I love that when modeling, you can be as creative and artistic as you want. Everything is an expression or feeling.

Are your tattoos part of you or an accessory?

My tattoos are definitely a part of me rather than just an accessory. They are personal expression of myself and my life.

What tattoo would you say is your current favorite?

My current favorite tattoo is my most recent one: my throat piece. My friend Rafa did the tattoo in Orange County. The tattoo is an hourglass with two hearts connected. It has blood instead of sand and wings on the sides. It's for my parent who both passed away.

You DJ now, how would you say your tattoos differ than most in the hip-hop community?

I would say my tattoos are different because they are done very well and they have a flow to them and also the placement. You have to really be dedicated to get your neck and face tattooed.

How often do you smoke or vape?

I smoke weed everyday basically, and I like vaping I just always lose my vape pens!

How does it feel to enjoy marijuana in public now?

It feels great to just have it out in the open and be real about it. I been smoking weed since I was 13 years-old, so it's more like medicine to me really. I'm more of a weed activist than a "pothead." I'm just a hard working, tattoo, independent weed smoking model.

It seems like you are doing your own thing successfully any pointers to inspiring creative people and models?

Keep striving towards your goals and never give up! Everyone's road to "success" isn't easy at all. I still struggle all the time. But it's about keeping positive people and influences around you and staying creative. Don't be afraid to be confident and love yourself the way you want other people to love you. Keep grinding.

What's the Madzilla brand about?

The Madzilla brand is about being yourself. I want to show the word that you can express yourself any way you like and it's never too late to start following your dreams—no matter how big or crazy they seem. They are probly already coming true, you just don't know it yet! I just want spread positivity and creativeness.

First thing someone notices about you: tattoos, dimple piercings or booty?

A lot of people say something about the cheek piercings first! I guess it's not as common.... Then the tattoos, *then* the booty—after they go look at my Instagram.¶







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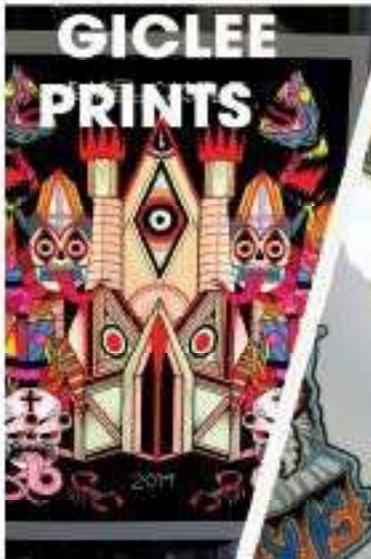
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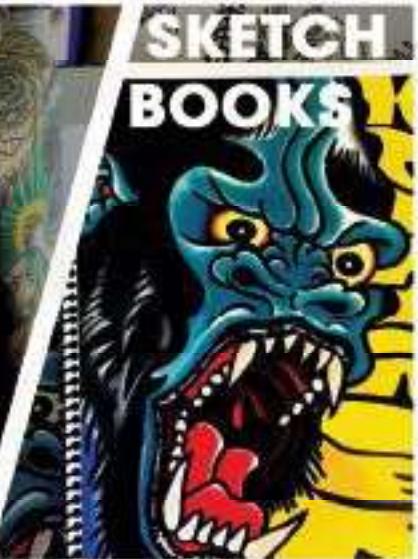
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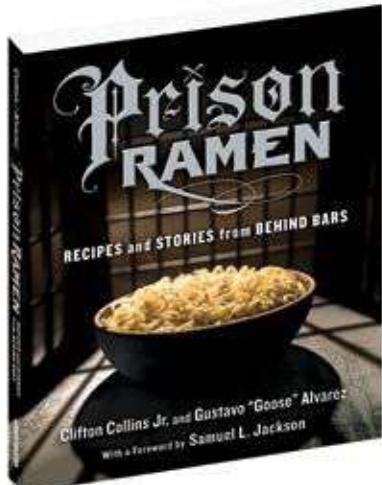
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CULTURE

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...but *American Horror Story: Hotel* gets 5 Natutical Stars (if a tattoo lifestyle publication were to use a star ranking we might as well use the popular tattoo star design) from us. The anthology series has entertained season after season (unlike *True Detective*) and the hotel setting has us covered in goosebumps already. Jessica Lange may not be returning this season (we're hoping she pops up as a surprise hotel guest), but other familiar faces are returning to fill the void, including: Sarah Paulson, Kathy Bates, Angela Bassett, Wes Bentley, Matt Bomer, Chloë Sevigny, Denis O'Hare, and Evan Peters. Bummed about Lange not returning? Well, get your freak on and re-watch *American Horror Story: Freakshow* which is now out on Blu-ray. Lady Gaga makes her series debut as Elizabeth—the owner of the ill-fated hotel. We assume that she has more than just Little Monsters in her closet. —*Gil Macias*



DEAD MEN WALKING

AMC's mega-hit *The Walking Dead* returns this October with its sixth season. Spoiler alert. The last time we saw Rick and co., they were shacked up in a seemingly safe community called Alexandria. Rick was having a hard time adjusting back to normalcy after months of experience in the savage real world. The season ended with Rick blowing away the town's asshole (and with good reason), but will he be able to cope? Or slip down a darker path? We'll soon find out. *The Walking Dead: The Complete Fifth Season* is now also available on Blu-ray—catch up before the new season premiere, it's coming quicker than a hoard of lumbering zombies. —G.M.

HELL'S KITCHEN

Prison Ramen is about hard times and soft noodles are in. Clifton Collins Jr. (actor *Triple 9* and *Man Down*), Gustavo "Goose" Alvarez and celebs like Danny Trejo, Slash and Taryn Manning fill the pages with stories and ramen recipes. Mr Cartoon did the cover lettering. Pour yourself a glass of pruno and dive in.

ALL NUKED UP

The fourth installment *Fallout* trades the bombed-out confines of Washington D.C. for the East Coast elite irradiated lands of Massachusetts. Players explore and shoot their way through super mutants and the unsavory sort of survivors who would rather steal your supplies and leave you for dead than share their last Nuka Cola. With an improved lighting engine, the ability to build your own settlements, and tighter shooting mechanics courtesy of former *Doom* and *Halo* coders, *Fallout 4* is one wasteland you won't want to leave. —*Matt Bertz*



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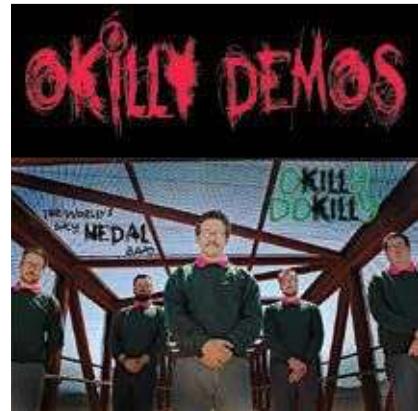
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FLESH FLASH



Second to *Inked* in the world of tattoo art curation is German publisher Edition Reuss. One of their newest offerings is the two-part mammoth volumes called *Tattoo Masters Flash Collection: Selected Styles Around the World*. On pages bigger than a cafeteria tray you will find art by the world's greatest tattooers such as Jean-Luc Navette (above) and Filip Leu (right). —A.C.



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Do you make coffee strong enough to wake the dead? Our Sugar Skull Moustache Mug (\$14.95, inkeshop.com) is a perfect vessel for your morning sip, or any time you quaff a warm beverage like, say, an evening Mexican Coffee. Bring one into your workplace to make Nicole in accounting jealous that her "World's Best Mom" mug isn't as cool as yours.

POWERED BY DIESEL

Countless movie stars have had to save New York City, this month it is former NYC club bouncer Vin Diesel's turn. In *The Last Witch Hunter* his character became cursed with immortality after slaying the Queen Witch but she's back and ready to dance again. The film also stars Elijah Wood and Michael Caine as a man of the cloth and Rose Leslie who played Ygrette on *Game of Thrones*. —G.M.



ASH VS. THE EVIL DEAD

The last time we saw Ash Williams was in the 1993 *Army of Darkness* (out on DVD) and we may not be getting a new movie, but we're getting the next best thing. Creator Sam Raimi directs the first of 10 episodes that premieres this Halloween on Starz. Bruce Campbell reprises his role as the "Boomstick" (and joke) wielder—we can't wait to see him kick some more Deadite ass. —G.M.



THE INKED PLAYLIST

BY JONAH BAYER

ANCIENT VVISDOM

"Chaos Will Reign"

Ancient VVisdom's melodic brand of metal sounds like Type O Negative reimaged by Integrity.

THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER

"Threat Level Number Three"

If you like your music as technical as it is aggressive you'll love this dizzying track.

THE DEAD WEATHER

"I Feel Love (Every Million Miles)"

Jack White & Co. make it look easy as they effortlessly craft another timeless rock gem.

DEAFHEAVEN

"Brought To The Water"

Deafheaven get symphonic on this blast-beat driven black metal anthem.

^ OKILLY DOKILLY

"All That Is Left"

If you listen to one Ned Flanders-inspired metal band it has to be this one. Stupid metally Flanders

DUNGEN

"Allas Sak"

Swedish psychedelic heroes return in formidable fashion with this seventies-inspired sonic exploration.

HEALTH

"Dark Enough"

There's something ominous about HEALTH's dark brand of pop but that's what makes it so satisfying.

JOANNA NEWSOM

"Sapokanikan"

Joanna Newsom returns with an otherworldly excursion that truly defines categorization.

CHUCK RAGAN

"Vagabond"

Chuck Ragan has become a master of modern folk and this tune is a perfect example of why.

ALCH^EMYTM



England · 1977



R202
Amon-Ra
Ring



E364
Deadskull
Earrings



P730
Bushido
Pendant



P731
Capitaneus
Necklace



ULP41
Sharp's Cross
Pendant



P739
Harbinger
Necklace



A109
Black Consort
Wriststrap



R207
Desolation
Ring



P737
Blast Furnace
Behemoth
Pendant



P699
Asmodeus
Necklace



P687
Wounded Love
Necklace



R204
Necrogram
Ring



AKP1
Pin Head
Kilt Pin



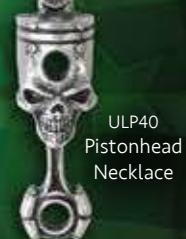
ULP22
Forever Inked
Necklace



E362
Doom
Faux-Stretcher



P734
Black Talon
Pendant



ULP40
Pistonhead
Necklace



ULP41
Flame-Brain
Pendant

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Jewellery shown not actual size

There is something intrinsic in our community that draws us (and our tattooed likenesses) into the science fiction and fantasy realm. When the first part of *Hunger Games: Mockingjay* came out women in the scene lamented that Halloween had passed as Cressida (Natalie Dormer) with her near-half-shaved head and vine tattoos would have been a better costume than Miley and her wrecking ball. Now, with *Part 2* on its way this November and a reminder to our female readers to shave their head this October here is a chat with head makeup artist who created the newly iconic look, Ve Neill.

Ve Neill: "In the books it says she has vines that wrap around her head all the way down her arm. I went online to see what vine tattoos have been done because I did not want to replicate what had been done. I kind of Frankenstein some samples together I took leaves off one thing, vines off another. I did try different vines, the stronger ones didn't look as pretty on her. I did want it to be beautiful because she is from the capital and the whole idea is that these people from the capital are more gentrified and exotic-looking so I didn't want to put anything on her that would be too masculine. Then I took it to Glenn Hetrick (of *Face Off*) who produced the tattoos for me, he has a lot of tattoos and he is adept at working with them so it worked out really well for us. He figured out how they would flow on a friend of his who already had her head shaved before we put them on Natalie. And Natalie loved the tattoo. She had to have loved it because she had to shave her head for them."



ART SIMPSON

There are few greater annual television events than *The Simpsons' "Treehouse of Horrors"*. Yes, we know the show fell off in the '90s, but so did Weezer and we still buy their albums, hoping that one day they will return to creative glory. We supremely prefer Halloween specials to Christmas specials or what we assume *Glee* does around Valentine's Day, and we think *The Simpsons* capture the spirit of the holiday damn near better than any show (save maybe *The Office* with *Creed*). So we are stoked to see this collaboration between artist Ron English and Kidrobot. English added his signature skeletal grin to Bart and Homer for three-inch Kidrobot vinyl figures. Kenny Scharf also put his spin on Bart for a six-inch figure that also has tattoos (take that, Snake). All three figures will be available next month, so put them on your holiday wish list now, man.

WILDE ABOUT SEX



Our resident Sex Columnist Jessica Wilde (@jessicawildemfc) is here to answer your burning sex questions—though if it burns consult an actual doctor right now. She's not a doctor, but she once role-played as a nurse so she's beyond qualified. Send your questions to press@inkedmag.com.

My boyfriend told me he would like to watch me masturbate. I fear I can't relax knowing he is watching me! How do you relax when you do it on MFC? —Alexandra

I try to imagine a field of flowers. Hundreds of horny flowers. Then I just lay back and let it go! Try making him a sexy video to watch before doing it in person. It will take the edge off him seeing you live for the first time.

Is body hair really a major turn-off for most girls? —T

Everyone has different taste. If you like your landscape then keep it. I personally think it's sexy to have chest hair, etc. It's very masculine.

Why do you think so many people are cheating these days? Example: Ashley Madison scandal —samboskene

Everything is too easily accessible. You don't have to go down to a dirty bar to have an affair these days, you can do it from your smart phone. It's a bit disheartening but there are still a few people out there that are honest lovers... right?

What do you suggest to someone who's only had bad relationships to do and get over it? —donguitarguru

Hop back on that wagon my friend! You won't find love by giving up and marrying your Xbox.

My friend asks me to try anal with him, but I'm a bit scared, do you have any advice so that it'll be a pleasant experience for us? —Sanne

Lube. Use lube.

How can I convince my boyfriend to allow me to stick a finger up his bum while we're having sex? —Amber

Definitely do not surprise your man with a finger in the bum! If you don't have trust issues, then you will after that. Ask your man if it's OK. Most likely your guy will try anything to turn your crank, he just probably won't tell his friends about it.



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THREE TATTOOED BEAUTIES OF HORROR FILM BRAVE A CLOUDLESS NIGHT AT A RUN-DOWN MOTEL IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

ANJA

ROBERTO

EMILY

words by CADLEK • *photos by* CHAMORRO • *starring* SHEPPARD

co starring LILY OCKWELL • OLLY HORNSBY-SAYER • PAUL ZIVKOVICH • EMILY TERNDRUP

location THE MCKITTRICK HOTEL, HOME OF SLEEP NO MORE

extras CESAR HAWAS • FALYN SWERER

hair and make up KERRY-LOU BREHM





Heather Moss is one of the most amazing women in the tattoo industry. She's not just a banging body with great tattoos, she runs Timeless Art Tattoo with her husband Bobby Ross—she really is a ride or die chick. Since she is the Boss Lady, we let Heather tell her story in her own words.

There are so many daily thoughts, duties and overall love for the crew that goes into being the Boss Lady at a tattoo shop. It has not always been easy. In the beginning, even with the support of my husband standing behind me, the artists who came and went looked at me as unworthy of making decisions and demands in the shop setting. I knew two things had to happen: One, I had to stand my ground and not be shaken. Two, I had to become irreplaceable to the crew to gain their respect. Since I wasn't an artist I knew I had to make myself part of the team and that is what I did. I branded myself to my business, to my husband and most importantly to the crew that I have today. After eight years, Timeless Art is one of the best things that ever happened to me. It takes a special breed of crazy. It taught me how to work hard, respect my team and build my brand. We at Timeless Art are all irreplaceable; there is no greater feeling than the camaraderie of our team.

Chase Odem did Bobby's name on my wrist and Boog Star did my knuckles which read "Timeless." With those two exceptions my husband is responsible for every drop of ink in my body. I chose black-and-grey work because I love the way it looks. I love the subtlety of the artwork and couldn't commit to a ton of color. My husband has always been a color artist, and it's pretty much all he did when we met. Now, thanks to me, a majority of his work is black-and-grey by request.

My husband is responsible for my favorite piece, my right sleeve. It's all about time, my family and our love. The top portion reads "Timeless Love" playing off both the shop and our partnership. The clock is the time we got married; the numbers falling throughout the sleeve are anniversaries, birthdates and other important numbers. My son's name Ryland Gage is on the inside of my arm and my daughter Madison on the outer. There's a broken hourglass with sand spilling out to represent time and reminds me to make each grain of sand count. The crown on my hand is to represent the royalty of family and is finished with 'One Love' just before my knuckles.

This industry is unarguably the greatest industry on the planet. There are no boundaries for those who find acceptance in the tattoo world. I was so incredibly fortunate to be Miss Milano 2014 and not only appear in Italy but to have an opportunity to represent Timeless Art and World Famous on one of the biggest scales imaginable. I do so many conventions a year, sponsoring the Phoenix Body Art Expo and my beloved United Ink. I look forward to each and every one, to see friends, idols and companies continue to grow and thrive in the industry.

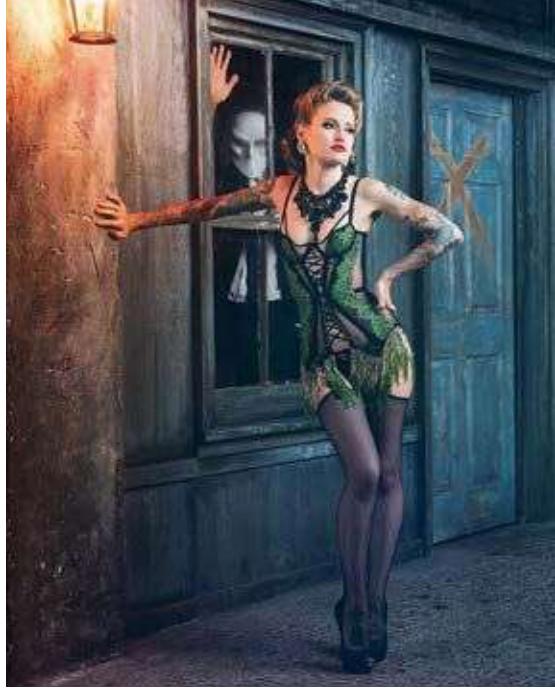
Back home in Arizona, you have shops that love each other and shops that hate each other. It keeps the thrill alive. We have so much support for our local community and it really shows during the Phoenix Expo. Everyone was against such a big production coming to the Valley at first, but each year more and more join the fun. In Arizona, we wear less clothes than the rest of the country so why not decorate the



TOP: DETAILED ROBE BY DAWN DUNING CULTURE; BOTTOM: WHITE BRA CORSET AND TASSEL BOTTOM PIECE BY MELISSA VARGAS COUTURE



STOCKINGS BY CAPEZIO, BLACK NECKLACE BY EYE CANDY LOS ANGELES



GREEN AND BLACK FLAPPER BASQUE BY AGED PROVOCATEUR, BLACK PEEK TOE HEELS BY GIUSEPPE ZANOTTI, EARRINGS BY OLIVIA WELLS,



Heather Moss is one of the most amazing women in the tattoo industry. She's not just a banging body with great tattoos, she runs Timeless Art Tattoo with her husband Bobby Ross—she really is a ride or die chick. Since she is the Boss Lady, we let Heather tell her story in her own words.

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Emily Shepard, the lovely blonde who was cast in this story, is a walking piece of art. From her pretty tattoos to her modeling, through burlesque performances and now acting, her life is one of a true artist.

"I'd die for art," Emily echoes from the last time we featured her. "People die for it all the time and it is important—art is Freedom of Speech."

While the girl is a polymath in the creative world, she has turned her attention toward acting, she is now working with Rooney Mara's coach Bob Krakower and was cast in *Codes of Conduct*, Steve McQueen's HBO drama. "I am proud—on a tattoo level—after booking that show," she says. "The casting industry is starting to become less prejudice about the tattoo community. I used to go into auditions, even in the middle of July wearing a big sweater. Now I think auditions have become with how good you are."

A working artist is one of the greatest and most-noble lives. When asked what her aspiration is, she answers, "The capability to be on the level with talented people." And other than McQueen she's worked with the likes of Adam Levine and Debra Messing. Then she thinks for a few ticks and says, "I want to be able to do not just do the run-of-the-mill movies for money, I want to make art and at the end of the year have a Roth IRA."

Emily is a bit of an introvert, a self-and-rightfully-proclaimed "nerd" who would rather spend time on Reddit than out on the town. But on stage, she sparkles. She takes on

characters in theatics, is malleable as a model to the persona that the photographer directs and dazzles behind a lace during her burlesque performances. Emily/Emily is shy but "Emily Shephard the burlesque dancer" commands every eye in the joint.

"Many women have 'burlesque names' but I kept my real name because of feminism," Emily says. "Stage names for burlesque dancers came because before women needed to be anonymous for the sake of their families and children, and I sympathize with that. But I won't let our Puritanical society make me hide behind my art."

About the location:

There are few places in New York City more magical than the McKittrick Hotel. Located on the West Side, and many years ago, the experience takes one away from the hustle and bustle and selfie sticks outside the environs. Once you walk through the doors you will be overcome with a feeling of nostalgia and intrigue which will make you not won't want to leave anytime soon—and you don't have to as the McKittrick Hotel is a one-stop nightlife destination (plus they have an amazing brunch devoid of the types of girls who wear "Sunday Funday" tank tops). The McKittrick houses the immersive theater spectacle *Sleep No More*, the fine-dining experience The Heath, the rooftop lounge Gallow Green, a winter rooftop hideaway called The Lodge, and the jazz-infused Manderley Bar. So the McKittrick Hotel has dinner and a show and time travel and drinks.

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BONE UP ON FALL STYLE

Photos by Michael Kraus Style by Darius Baptist Model: Mr. Bones

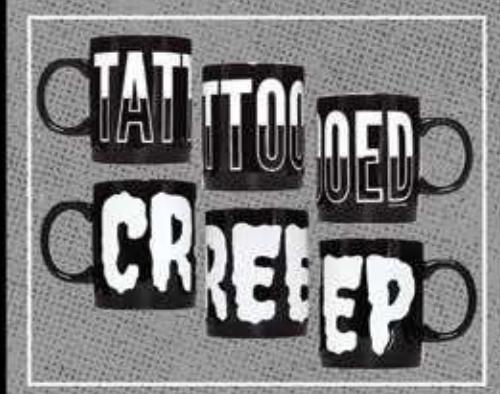


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dark ARTS

The pieces of art to the left all came from the demented minds of murderers. We aren't displaying the works to celebrate the men who put them to paper but rather we present the pieces so that they may give insight into the psyches of the creators. Clockwise from top left: Eugene McWatters, the "Salerno Strangler," was convicted of first-degree murder and sexual battery of three women, this is his haunting work; Charles Rienhardt was convicted of murdering a man who was left as collateral after a drug deal went bad, this is one of his creepy pieces of art; John Wayne Gacy also known as the Killer Clown was convicted of the sexual assault and murder of a minimum of 33 teenage boys and young men, this is his Skull Clown painting; McWatters's gnarly skull; Gacy's Seven Dwarves; Gacy's Pogo the Clown; another macabre piece from Rienhardt, Charles Bronson, considered Britain's most notorious prisoner drew this called "Day Release from Broadmoor," the thought bubble reads "This is bloody crazy."

Eric Holler is the owner of Serial Killers Ink, a website that deals in the true crime memorabilia including these pieces of art, which he has provided to Inked.

Inked: What insight do you think we can gain from looking at a serial killer's artwork?

Holler: From my perspective I'm not really sure that the art these guys produce really give any kind of insight into anything outside of the basic fact that this one likes skulls or that this one prefers painting clowns. If I were to come to one solid conclusion from the art these guys produce, I guess I would say their minds do stay in a very dark place and that dark place often comes out on canvas.

Are you fascinated by the minds of these men?

I am very fascinated by their minds. That was the sole reason I began corresponding with and visiting them. I wanted to find out what made them tick – why they did what they did. Why did this guy go out and dismembered and cannibalized 20 people? Or why did this one keep the heads of his victims as trophies? It obviously takes someone quite mentally ill to commit some of these crimes but I wanted to go a step deeper than what is on the surface. In 20 years of writing and befriending infamous killers I can honestly say that to this day I've gained no more insight or understanding than when I began. I do believe most of us have an attraction to the dark side of life, even if just wanting to explore and learn about it, instead of actually acting upon it.

How do you ensure authenticity?

I obtain most of my items directly from the inmates themselves. In obtaining items that are already on the market, my years of experience in this business is what guides me as far as authenticity.

Who are some of the more questionable characters you've met in dealing with this sort of memorabilia?

They are all questionable! They are in prison for murder for fucks sake! In all seriousness, I've had nothing but pleasant experiences with these men and women of murder as well as my customers and normal folk on the outside.

What would be the Holy Grail of true crime memorabilia?

I would have to say John Wayne Gacy's clown suit—but last I heard it's hanging in a museum in Washington DC.

MONSTER

Since wrestling is fake to begin with wouldn't you prefer to watch a match between men in spandex or a battle royale including a half-gerbil-half-tucan, hell monkey and a giant silver potato?

photos by chad griffith





Have you ever wanted to watch a giant silver potato wrestle a half-gerbil-half-toucan? Of course you haven't, who would come up with that? Randy Borden, that's who. A lover of old Japanese monster movies, current pop culture and causing a scene, Borden created Kaiju Big Battel when studying at the School of Museum of the Fine Arts in Boston. A three-minute "performance" turned into a life pursuit to dazzle, comment on absurd politics and pit twin plantains against a Hell Monkey [Why does Hell Monkey look like a pig? "Because in Hell, monkeys look like pigs and pigs climb trees."] in the ring. This is a show, not wrestling, as it is more theater of the ludicrous than WWE. "It is performance art," says Borden. "It is socio-political commentary and parody of pop culture, not just guys beating each other up for a three-count."

The commentary can be subtle, like for instance, last fall when North Korea outlawed Choco-Pies (like a moon pie) per capitalism, Kaiju announced: "The humble Choco-Pie, at first glance a harmless sweet snack but don't be fooled, the Choco-Pie is quite possibly the most dangerous snack food since Dorito's had pointy corners. Choco-Pie's are so dangerous that the government of North Korea has banned them in fear of them being used to overthrow the regime. "Who cares" you say? Well the Kaiju Commissioner in his quest to bring fans the most danger power legally allowed by law, has decided to put the danger of the Choco-Pie to the test by challenging two Kaiju fighters to Kaiju's first ever Choco-Pie Fighto."

So it's all fun and games until D.W. Cycloptopuss losses an eye? Nope, the whole event and culture around the characters are a blast. Nothing is taken seriously, not the wrestling (real fake-wrestling fans may take umbrage with certain moves, get over yourselves) and not even the name. Kaiju means "mysterious beast" in Japanese and the spelling of "Battel" was not lost in translation but Borden misspelled it on a T-shirt design. "People thought it was funny, so it was left that way." Bring your sense of humor and imagination to the next bout which coming to destroy a city near you.







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THE PUNK PASTORE

Tattooed megapastor Carl Lentz—who has the ear of Jay-Z, Kevin Durant and Justin Bieber—is not your father's preacher man.

By Leander Schaerlaeckens Photos by Polina Yamshchikov



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The preacher who looks nothing like a preacher is beginning to lose his voice. Carl Lentz just delivered the seventh of the nine sermons and opening prayers he will give today. So, sitting in the second row of a black SUV ferrying him between Irving Plaza and the Best Buy Theater in Times Square for the umpteenth time today, he sucks on a cough drop. Being America's hottest young preacher and befriending and ministering to Justin Bieber and an All-Jesus team of NBA stars is hard work. And it's murder on your throat.

Joe, a 20-something off-duty cop and Lentz confidant doubling as his driver, threads the car through the tousled Midtown traffic, up Sixth Avenue and across 42nd Street. His police badge dangles from the rearview mirror. Leopard-print Chuck Taylors poke out of his designer jeans. He takes plenty of liberties with his fellow drivers to keep Lentz on pace with his frenzied schedule.

In spite of Joe's best efforts to get Lentz out of the building quickly after giving his latest sermon on this blessed Sunday, everybody they bumped into wanted their pastor's time. And he had made some for all of them, even though there were more than a thousand people waiting for him uptown and he really had no time to give.

A crowd packed in tight had just hung on Lentz's every word at Irving Plaza, an old, dark night club with a disco ball, blue chandeliers and a red hue emanating from the back of the room. Like every one of his congregations, they had been a perfect reflection of the Millennial generation – black, Asian, white, Hispanic. He'd been a blur of sound and motion, set to the ambient tones played by a keyboardist. The faithful cheered and hollered and raised their arms in testimony as he stomped about the small stage, preaching and screeching in his breathless patter and gesticulating wildly to emphasize his message. Thick veins bulged in his neck. The colored lights caught the sweat beads on his forehead. He'd gotten increasingly animated while a band assembled behind him and began to play. Slowly, the music built to an all-out crescendo of Christian rock as Lentz left the podium.

Today, in late March, Lentz and the Hillsong Church, where he's a lead pastor, are trying something new. Rather than keep turning away hundreds of the worshipers snaking around the block in an endless line every Sunday, they figured simultaneous services in two venues might solve their problem: eight in all, starting at 10 a.m. and resetting every few hours. There's a team of pastors, but the people want to see Lentz. So he has bounced back and forth, either giving the opening prayer or the closing sermon. And he video-conferenced into a third location at the Wellmont Theater in Montclair, NJ.

Now, in the Chevy Tahoe, he strokes his forearm, one of the 10 spots where he's inked – among them an angel, script and a lion for his three children; a Manhattan skyline; the 757 area code for his Virginia Beach hometown; his wife Laura's name; a pair of crossed-up pistols above the caption "Make 'em pay" for friends lost too soon. Men who look like the 36-year-old Lentz aren't typically found in churches, let alone ministering to them. A scoop-neck t-shirt with short sleeves, once black but now badly faded and worn, makes no secret of his muscular frame. His skinny jeans and pointy shoes emphasize his tall build. He ditched the light denim jacket up on stage, but the long chain around his neck remains. His beard is trimmed everywhere but on his chin. His hair is buzzed up the sides; his Mohawk slicked back. He clutches a necklace just given to him by one of the few older congregants.

Now that he's becoming something close to famous, Lentz doesn't have to answer for his look much anymore. "Early on, it was harder to stick to your guns," he says. "The tattoos were a big deal back in the day. It's less a big deal now because people are less ridiculous. People would ask me about it all the time and I'd be like, 'Why does this matter? This is so stupid.'"

The privilege of success is the erosion of scrutiny. Just 4 ½ years after its founding, more than 8,000 worshipers will pass through Hillsong NYC's services today.

On the way into the Best Buy Theater, Lentz quickly records a video hit for an in-house Hillsong mini-doc and chatters to the many security people and volunteers. He commends the guy working the elevator on upping his Instagram game. When he passes through, everybody in the room beams. There a lot of bro hugs, fist bumps, "Love ya's."

The service has just started as Lentz settles into the green room. In the the-

ater, the dozen or so musicians on stage, standing in the colorful glow of the stage lights, make an almighty racket for the Almighty. The building throbs with bass. Right in front of the podium, congregants jump deliriously – it's practically a mosh pit. Inflatable balls bounce atop the crowd. Everybody is on their feet and seems to know the words to all the songs.

Lentz comes on, without much fanfare, and steps into the light. "Thank you for being faithful," he begins, before acknowledging the logistical troubles of being a rapidly expanding and therefore nomadic house of worship. "This is your church. It's not an easy church to be a part of. It's like a scavenger hunt, but in God we trust."

He leads them into a raucous prayer and the band kicks up again. Then Lentz leaves.

And now we're in the car again, speeding back to Irving Plaza while a Hillsong track plays on the sound system. Lentz re-reads his "message" for the day – he never uses the word sermon – on his laptop and tweaks it for optimal effect. It's color-coded for pacing and cadence.

Different congregations require different approaches. The morning ones tend to be mellower, as some in the crowd were out all night and tack some church onto the end. Others catch the more animated night-time service before they go out. "Hopefully they go out and have a different night," Lentz says between sips of coffee. He and his "crew" used to go out after the last service themselves, back when they would do seven or eight consecutively, running late into the night, before hitting up the city's hip-hop clubs. He still goes to see his friend DJ Clue? wherever he plays.

Lentz prepares meticulously. He has typed out several pages, single-spaced, before memorizing them all. His preaching doesn't feel rehearsed, littered as it is with off-the-cuff remarks. "It's kind of like a comedian in that the more prepared a comedian is, the more free they tend to kind of flow," Lentz explains. So he improvises a highly polished message, depending on the room.

Irving Plaza for the fourth time. Another packed room. Lentz sways to the music as he waits to go onstage. He steps into the booming noise and the lights fix on him. "You might be in here brand new," Lentz begins the ninth service, which has been underway for a good hour. "Number one: welcome. If you're thinking, 'Does it get any crazier?' No. We sacrifice animals only once a month – that was last week." He gets a good laugh.

He congratulates the congregation for having found its church again. "I don't even respect real churches anymore," Lentz continues. "I've been in churches that have carpet, pews, sound systems and I'm like, 'Ya'll don't even love Jesus. If you did, you'd be in a club!'" Another big laugh. His voice is getting raspy now, his Virginia twang thicker. He cracks jokes as he reads scripture, making it feel as much like a stand-up act as a sermon. The bible he holds has a big sticker on the front of it. Occupy All Streets.

Easter is just two Sundays away. Lentz suggests a quip to prod the lazy believers. "People feel really guilty about not coming to church, and you can use that on Easter," he says. "Find somebody who you know they feel guilty and be like, 'Hey, it's Easter. Jesus rose from the grave; you can raise from your bed. Just one time a year.'" Laughter.

Behind Lentz, a projection screen depicts a man holding a Molotov cocktail, beside the words The Weapon of Worship. He commands the room with his wit and vigor. A talk about misplaced anxiety, frustration and trust in God turns into a riff on the DMV. It took him a while to get his Virginia driver's license changed after he moved to New York. He worried about getting pulled over. "Every time I got in the car I felt like I was 18 again," Lentz recalls to his flock, "riding dirty with weed in the back." Laughter.

He imitates the various stereotypes in his congregation. "Single guy worship is this," he says, his index fingers pointing skywards at chest height, his arms just off to his side. "You're worshipping but you still look pretty cool. And single girl worship is like this," he continues, throwing his left hand in the air and spreading his fingers. "I love Jesus, but I'm also ringless!" Laughter.

He sometimes interrupts himself while rhapsodizing about faith and tithing and reaching out to people about coming to their church. "Is this helping anybody?" he'll say. "Holler back if you're hearing me right now, y'all." A cascade of whoops will wash over him. The youth before him is dressed



for nothing more serious than a casual dinner. A few people have brought Starbucks cups. Others are eating. They text openly and unabashedly. That's okay here.

"Regular church is a little too formal for me," says Alex Arevalo, 15, who has been coming for 6 months and sports a low-slung baseball cap, a big chain and baggy clothes. "The energy that you feel in here is amazing. This is more like our generation's stuff."

The first time Laura met her future husband, she was unimpressed. Sure, the tattooed American with a love for hoops and hip-hop was handsome and charming and instantly well-liked when he turned up in Sydney in 2000. But, as Laura recalls now, "He was a bit too cool for school." Lentz had short, curly hair then, with frosted tips. He wore earrings, chains and tight, white t-shirts. "Just think Justin Timberlake back in his N*Sync days, that was him," Laura says. He was brash and boisterous, but also warm and driven and sure of himself. They married in 2003, moved back to Virginia Beach and had their first of their kids.

Raised in a devout family that attended churches of several different denominations, Lentz rediscovered his faith and was born again during his sophomore year at North Carolina State. Now that he'd found Jesus, his mother finally let him get tattoos – "She kind of took half the fun out of it." He'd been a basketball team walk-on before transferring to bible colleges in Virginia and then Los Angeles, where he also worked as a Gucci store greeter. Then he learned about Hillsong International Leadership College. The Australian Pentecostal mega-church was founded by Brian Houston in 1983 and now has outposts in capitals all over the world. It owns an eponymous record label that dominates the Christian Rock genre, providing seed money for the global expansion of its franchise of churches, and runs its own biblical college. Laura, whose family was close with the Houstons, was already enrolled.

Back in Virginia, they became intern pastors at the non-denominational Wave Church, rising through the ranks. Then, in 2009, they got a call from Joel Houston, Brian's son and their close friend, about starting a Hillsong chapter in New York City. They accepted before they'd even learned what their roles would be – lead pastors, as it turned out.

In the summer of 2010, they started meeting with their prospective church members in apartments, just a few dozen at first but more every time. By late 2011, they launched their church and 1,500 people showed. Hillsong NYC has bounced between venues ever since, hustling to meet a mushrooming demand and sustaining itself on tithes and volunteerism. On Friday, they often wouldn't know where they would be holding services on Sunday. A last-minute tweet would tell their followers where to go.

Lentz says it all just kind of happened for him. "I've figured this out as I've gone," he says. "As I started to go down this path, I started thinking that maybe I'm called to do this, maybe this has something to do with why I'm on the planet. I never woke up and said I wanna be a pastor. Absolutely the opposite. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would be a preacher, doing any of this. The longer you do this though, the more you find out that God's using the people who are available, not the people who are awesome. I think I've grown into it. I still find it hard to believe even myself what I do."

TKTK POSSIBLE BRIAN HOUSTON QUOTE ON LENTZ TK
TK

Lentz and Hillsong fit each other well. If he was an unlikely pastor, he would be one in an unlikely church, which had no qualms about being different. "Doing church, conventional wisdom rules the day," he says. "And it's ironic, because we claim to follow a God that's the opposite of convention. That's why when church is traditional, it's so predictable and I don't believe it's the right representation. Coming here, from the way we dress to the way we do church to

where we have church, people say it's unconventional. I don't think so. It's probably truer to our faith than convention."

But that isn't to say that Hillsong, which has plenty of other pastors who don't look like pastors, consciously manages its image. "We never set out to be the cool, tattoo church, or meet in the club," he says. "We meet in a club because that's the only place available. We have tattoos because we have tattoos. People always ask about our clothes and it gets ridiculous, like we're sitting there planning what we're gonna wear. This is what we wear. A reporter asked if I wear a black, leather jacket to prove a point. No. It's because it's my favorite jacket. A guy in my church made it for me so I wear it."

What Lentz and the rest of Hillsong do foster intentionally is acceptance. "This is a church where you can come as you are," he says. "No matter what that is — if you have tattoos on your eyelids or whether you wear an Oxford shirt or some khaki pants. Whoever you are, that's who we want to get to know."

That creed has helped make it the fastest-growing church in New York City. Josh O'Brien, 27, has been coming for two years. "It's a very freeing church, very welcoming," he says. "A lot of people probably were turned away from church at some point in their life and the lack of formality is definitely part of the appeal. There's a lack of walls. It removes a lot of barriers that a lot of people probably associate when thinking about church."

It has found a following among celebrities, namely Justin Bieber, whom Lentz has known since 2007, and 2013-14 NBA MVP Kevin Durant, whom he baptized. Most days, Lentz connects with Biebs and KD, as he calls them, via text or a phone call. His Instagram account is littered with pictures of him with famous athletes, hanging out. "Our church is conducive to people in that lane, because it's easy to hide, it's easy to slip in and out, and it's the same language," he says. "[Bieber] is just one of the guys around here. We are obligated to serve anybody who asks. If you are famous, you deserve to have a church like everybody else."

Lentz isn't saving religion. Which is just as well, because he dislikes the very construct of religion. He thinks it's a bloated institution that complicates and perhaps even obstructs a relationship with God. The numbers support that assertion. Some 2.7 million American church members fall into inactivity each year, according to the Hartford Institute of Religion Research, while at least 4,000 churches have to close their doors. Several studies have found that only around a fifth of Americans go to church regularly. Yet according to a 2013 Harris Poll, 74 percent of the population believes in God. There's a disconnect there.

"I love it," says Lentz. "To me that's

not a problem, it's a good thing. Because I don't think religion is the answer. We always tell people we're about a relationship with God. Jesus said religion, in his mind, was helping widows and caring for orphans. Religion is not a set of rules and something you have to do. I love it when people say they hate religion. Me too. The version of religion they're talking about, I don't agree with it either." As a substitute, Hillsong offers up a bare-bones kind of church service. It more or less goes: music, sermon, music, sermon, music. Lentz reads some scripture and interprets it. But there's no liturgy, no communion, none of all that. Just worship and a message.

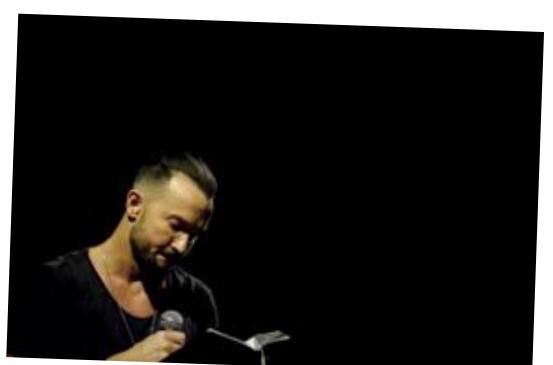
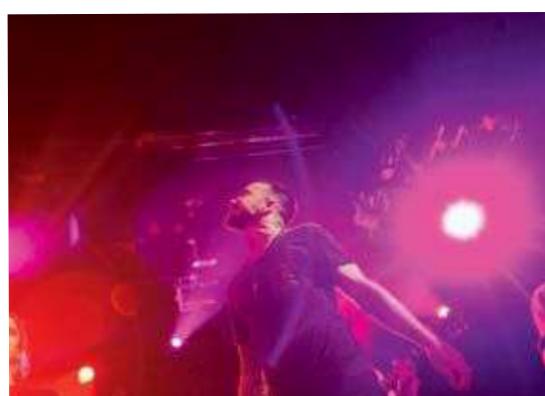
Assuming the fifth of Americans going to church comes from the three-quarters that believes in God, at least half of Americans are religiously disenfranchised and quite possibly open to an alternative like Hillsong, which is consciously non-denominational. The opportunity is enormous. People give up on practicing their faith if they don't connect with their church, but you wouldn't use that logic in any other area of your life, Lentz argues. "If you went to a bad restaurant, you wouldn't stop eating," he says. "If you saw a bad movie, you wouldn't swear off movies. So give it one more shot, come have a look at the way we do it and what we believe, and then make your call. Our hope is people give us enough of a chance to show 'em what we're about. We don't want to change church. Our way isn't the only way. There are plenty of ways to do this. This is just our way."

While that way is novel, its interpretation of the bible is conservative. The hot, new church, which has managed to both capture and retain the attention of Millennials — the ADHD generation which is far more liberal than any before it — is anti-abortion, anti-stem cell research and preaches sexual purity. "It's totally ironic," says Lentz of his church's image as modern. "It's funny how we get a rep for something that's not actually true."

If you went out and tried, if you devoted serious resources to the effort, you would have a hard time finding someone who has less interest in organized religion than I do. It isn't on some kind of liberal principal. I've been to traditional church services a dozen or so times. I think it can offer people real, important structure and support. It just isn't for me.

Going to Lentz's Hillsong services, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, exactly. I suspected it might all feel terribly cultish. And I found the idea of a person commanding such devotion from so many people in such a short timeframe as Lentz has sort of dangerous. The night I shadowed him, Lentz told me several times that he hoped I would return to Hillsong. Not as a reporter, but as a worshiper. I would smile politely and move the conversation on. But having seen Lentz in action, having gotten







a feel, over the course of three services, for his congregation and its flow and pulse, I get it. The packaging of this message is so original and accessible that I have a lot more time for it than the dull drone of a regular church service. The preaching itself is still lost on me, but the framing has an undeniable appeal. To even a heathen like me, it's a good show. I don't know that I would rearrange my Sunday or go very far out of my way to come back, but if I happened to be around, I'd happily stop in. I'd bring friends. I'd bring my wife, who is spiritual but never identified with any traditional church and has grown curious through my reporting. You have to see this thing.

Yet this is a real church, preaching a genuine, theologically-informed message. There is no artifice here, just a different way of getting across the same two thousand-year-old teachings. And below the "WELCOME HOME"-banner, there's a warmth so thick you could bottle it. It's not a labored we're-at-church-so-let's-be-nice-to-each-other friendliness. Rather, it's a sense of organic intimacy, grown amid an improbable community in the heart of an emotionally unavailable city. A community that believes very much that its way of doing things isn't any less right for being unusual.

As for Lentz, he's one of the more magnetic people you're likely to meet. But there's a sincerity underpinning the swagger. A substance beneath the assured sway of a man bounding toward middle age knowing that his ceiling is a long way off yet. Before meeting him, I had taken great care in calibrating my bullshit detector. It didn't go off all night.

The ninth and final service is winding down. Loudly, of course. Lentz has delivered his message for the last time today and slowly recedes behind the band as it kicks into a full pomp, sneaking off into the shadows. He turns his back to the crowd and hunches over at the waist. He flicks a few tears from his eyes and then covers his face with both hands, shuddering with sobs.

Lentz stumbles off stage, without a fuss. He has nothing left to give. For this Sunday anyway.

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FROM RUSSIA WITH INK: OLEG SHEPELENKO BRINGS HIS
REALISM TATTOOS TO THE UNITED STATES.



Pravda means “truth” in Russian. No word describes Russian tattooer Oleg ShepeLENKO better, from his views on the industry to his realism tattoos that stay true to the subject (with the exception of the sugar skull mask he put on Vladimir Putin). Having travelled to the United States, the tattooer is leaving his mark on our local culture with dazzling pieces from portraits to animals. Before you book that backpiece you've been planning, check out this new kid from the Eastern Bloc.

INKED: What made you decide to teach yourself how to tattoo?

SHEPELENKO: When I was learning how to do tattoos there were very few famous artists in Russia to look up to. So I had to search the internet, books, and magazines for any information I could use to develop my skills.

You began tattooing in 2001 as a hobby, why did you make the switch to professional tattooer in 2005?

Over those first four years my work was improving so much that I began to receive offers to work in professional studios. My client list was constantly growing. The career pretty much developed itself.

How do you think being self-taught has helped your career? How do you think your career would be different if you had been mentored?

I believe that being self-taught I have come to work in my own style, free from the limitations that I would have had with mentors or teachers. I have often thought about learning from professional artists, but I'm always faced with the fact that they are restricted by rules. I think it's disheartening to have my art limited by these rules, so I decided to look at their work and implement some of what I saw in my own work.

What are the pros and cons of having been self taught vs having a formal apprenticeship?

I have no limitations on my style. The main disadvantage is that in order to succeed one would need to spend two- or even three-times longer learning. Going through trial and error and constant experimentation is important in order to find what works best for you—it is time-consuming.

Were you working towards being an artist that focused on realism, or was this something you came to love after dabbling in other styles?

I was always struck by the style of realism. And I purposefully tried to work on it and improve this style.

You work in realism, but you have said that you do not like doing fine details, why not?

Small details in the realism tend to change over a few years after the tattoo heals. I see, in some work, after a couple of years that noticeable details lose their sharpness. So now I have to constantly work to ensure that my tattoos don't lose the quality. This is my main focus when trying to master this style at the highest level.

Would you say that you prefer color to black-and-grey?

Yes. You can take the same color piece, give it to two talented artists, and receive two completely different tattoos. We, as individuals, based on our local environment, life experiences and so many more factors, interpret colors differently. Color helps to distinguish my work from the 1000s of other artists out there. Looking at black-and-grey, you see many of the same works resemble each other. It is much more difficult to make your black-and-grey unique and not like any other.

Which is more challenging and why?

Tattooing with color, in my opinion, is the most difficult because there are dozens of shades that need to be introduced under the skin without damaging it. It requires a lot of experience. For black-and-grey tattoos, things are a little different. This style is much faster and less traumatic. Therefore, almost every good studio has a wizard that does well in black- and-grey. And this is no surprise.

You look for inspiration in photography, do you ever photograph your own references?

Many of the portraits I do are of my own photos. I find it easier to take a good photo myself, rather than have to explain to the person what is required of the photograph. I have a set-up for professional photography in my studio.



One of your more infamous tattoos is of Vladimir Putin painted up like a sugar skull. Putin is notorious for not taking well to being mocked, did you ever think there could be ramifications for the person who got the tattoo or possibly for you?

My client came into the studio and asked for a Putin tattoo. The twist was he wanted it as unusual as possible because he collects a lot of unusual and sometimes funny tattoos. We did try our best not to offend Vladimir Putin and I do not believe this tattoo to be provocative or politically charged in any way.

What is the most unusual tattoo that you've done?

I would like to do more unusual, or unconventional, tattoos. Unfortunately my clients are increasingly turning to rather ordinary desires. But trust me, if I get to do an unusual tattoo, the *Inked* audience will be the first I tell.

Being self-taught, you spent hours redrawing portraits of people and animals, why have you now chosen to focus on one medium (tattooing)?

Initially I wanted to draw so that I would copy images and increase my skill level in tattooing. I'm not so interested in drawing on paper, to me it is better that the time gets spent on creating a beautiful tattoo on the skin. The more I work on the skin, the better I feel my level of tattooing gets.

What was your first tattoo?

First tattoo I got I was 17 years-old and it was a pattern on the shoulder. I had my friend, Alexander Haishyan, do it for me. It was very painful, but I immediately realized that it was mine and I loved it.

Who do you want to be tattooed by?

I want a tattoo from Nikko Hurtado. I left a place for him on my leg. And on the other leg, a place for A.D. Pancho. We sometimes talk, but can never meet, because he and I are constantly working. Our schedules have yet to line up.

You have quite a collection of tattoos, who have you been tattooed by?

I have tattoos from a lot of amazing artists. I view every single one of them as colleagues and friends. We meet, work together and build a friendship through hard work and a shared passion for the art. The most recent piece I've gotten was done by my friend Rich Zayas of Tattoo Lou's in New York. He did the Statue of Liberty on my neck to represent my love for New York.

You are currently working out of Tattoo Lou's in New York, any plans to make a move?

I am working towards being a part of the team at Tattoo Lou's. I appreciate being given the opportunity to be part of the World Famous Tattoo Ink Pro Team. The exposure I've gained since becoming a member has allowed me to get my work out of Russia. ■





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HOW DID YOU GET INTO TATTOOING?

I started as a client and one day I bought my own equipment because I wanted to learn, inspired by my father who is an artist and sculptor.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT REALISM THAT APPEALS TO YOU?

I generally try to be an integrated artist, despite the fact that there are styles that I still haven't mastered, like oriental, but realism for me is a challenge, to achieve a photograph's dominance of light, contrast and volume.

YOU WORK MAINLY IN BLACK-AND-GREY, WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO DO SO?

It's not that I prefer to work in black-and-grey tones; it's that because of the skin tone of the majority of my clientele, mostly Venezuelan, it is recommended to use "shadows," so that the color doesn't dull out.

WHAT IS THE TATTOO SCENE LIKE IN VENEZUELA?

There is still prejudice, it is still taboo. In the past few years peoples views on tattooing have evolved greatly. In a sense a new generation of artists has been born, myself included.

WHAT OTHER ARTISTS IN VENEZUELA SHOULD WE SEEK OUT?

In my country: Axel Lopez who was my tattoo artist, and has given me many tips; Darwin Enriquez who is a great artist and is always evolving; Emersson Pabon who is a comprehensive and high quality human being.

HOW DO YOU TEST YOUR BOUNDARIES AS AN ARTIST?

Working everyday, working hard on each job. I try to be a perfectionist, and pay attention to the details in each piece. I give myself challenges like finishing a whole piece using only one machine, with only one magnum 15 needle. ■

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HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR SHOP, MEATT, INC.?

Meattt, Inc. is a tattoo art shop with a modernized butcher shop theme. When you first enter the space there is a butcher case stocked chock full of Meattt merchandise. There are clear vinyl meat flaps to separate the space while tattooing, as well as a proper meat scale which holds all tattooing aftercare needs. I focused primarily on the concept of meat when branding. Through out the design process I referenced the pattern of marbleized meat on all shop signage i.e windows and front door. Meattt's aesthetic is clean, modern and strategic. Objects are carefully curated around the shop. These objects are significant to NYC, flash art and meat.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE ON YOUR BUTCHER SHOP AESTHETIC?

I have always felt that a butcher shop/tattoo art shop would be quite humorous. The "body as meat" made sense in my head. Part of my background is in branding so I basically went to town when finally deciding on the name and decor.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR ARTISTIC INSPIRATIONS?

Toilet Paper (Maurizio Cattelan's magazine), Japanese textiles, *Crap Hound* magazine, going to Chinatown, the inter-web, art fairs, the graphic novelist Lynd Ward, Ikebana, Deno Tattoo or anything coming out of Circus Tattoo, Vice's Munchies, visual images from scientific and nature books see: Taschen, (Isaiah) Toothtaker, @j_mckenna, and true crime podcasts specifically Sword and Scale.

HOW HAS TATTOOING AFFECTED YOUR OTHER ARTISTIC VENTURES?

It has influenced my painting. I make large format flash-style watercolors and I only use spit-shading as my technique for painting them. I love spit-shading process as well as the gradation that occurs. ■

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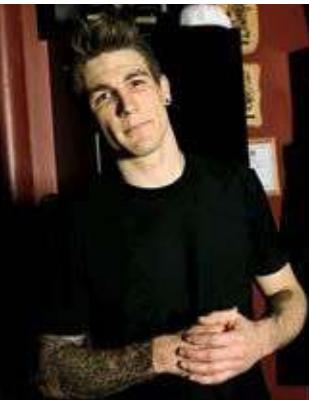
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ARE PEOPLE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT YOU FOUGHT MMA?

I don't really look like a fighter so I feel most people are surprised to find that out. I haven't fought in a few years because it started taking a toll on my body. Years of wrestling and boxing wore out my shoulder and the last MMA fight I had really messed it up to the point that I had to have surgery. I've broke my hand a few times and have had numerous concussions. If you are going to fight competitively you need to put in the time so it was either fighting or tattooing. Tattooing is something you can do as a career for the rest of your life career so that's what I picked.

YOU'VE MOVED AROUND SOME, OF ALL THE PLACES THAT LIVED WHICH INFORMED YOUR ART THE MOST?

I would say Duluth, MN and Grand Forks, ND had the biggest impact on my art style—both places have long winters with not a lot to do, which gives you plenty of time to draw.

HAS SURREALISM/REALISM ALWAYS BEEN THE FOCUS OF YOUR ART?

Yes I would say realism and surrealism has always been the style I focused on most. There is something about the challenge of taking an image—usually a face—and morphing it with some other element is extremely fun for me and something that I was always drawn to.

HOW DOES YOUR CONSULTATION PROCESS WORK?

For my surrealistic pieces, clients usually come to me with a rough idea or some kind of a subject then let me do my thing with it. But when they come and give me full artistic freedom I feel extremely fortunate.

GIVEN FULL FREEDOM WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO MORE OF?

I want to do a lot more face-morphs in the future. □

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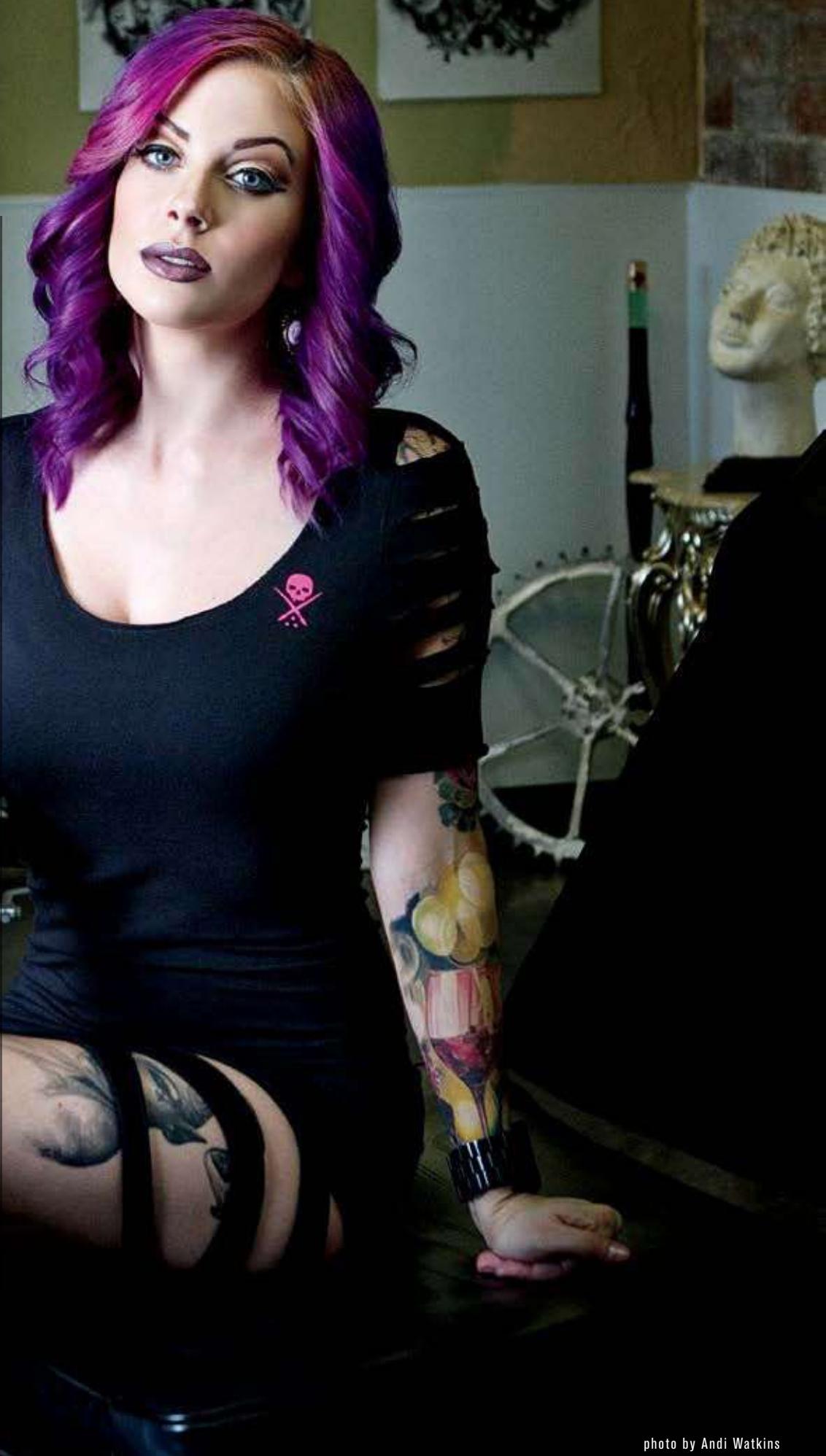
JAYLYNN

OWNER OF SAINTS INK TATTOO, ST. GEORGE, UT

Some tattoo shops have music blaring, others have artist stations set up with iPod hookups, but we play movies. We have this hard drive with about 950 movies on it and just let them play through. The best, however, is when *Movie 43* is on. You know that scene, with Hugh Jackman out on a date with Kate Winslet and he has a set of balls on his neck? Somehow, a customer is *always* standing right beneath the TV when that happens and we receive the same reaction every time of "What the f&%?" Followed by "What is this movie called?" with bouts of laughter.

Abram does a lot of cover ups here at Saints. A lot! I'm the one holding all the empathy when it comes to the story of a hated tattoo and the reasoning for covering it. It really gets to me when the clients cry; happy tears are the absolute best, especially when its a memorial of a loved one. We firmly believe that every client should leave here thinking we kick-hard-core-ass. A woman came in needing a cover-up because the memorial for her son was not at all what she wanted. It was small, a bit smaller than a business card, and Abram was asked to do a cover-up of Rainbow Mountain, where her son had passed. With that cover-up, Abram did not surpass the size she wanted (which was no bigger than a standard business card) and made it look just like a painting. The reaction we see from our clients after they get a fresh, beautiful tattoo that they're proud of is immaculate.

Not too much crazy stuff happens here. We're in small town St. George, Utah. What does happen often? Disagreements on pricing. Common, I know. I had a recent experience on a Monday in August with a girl who called. We are closed Sundays and Mondays, but our shop phone is a cell phone so why not answer if I'm available? I answer and a young woman is crying on the other line. I wait for her to respond and she tells me how rude people have been to her and that the shop she just went to was mean. As I said before, I am way too empathetic. So I ask what it is that I can help her with today and she wants a tattoo, size of a penny or nickel, but only has \$25 to spend on a tattoo. Well, lets think, if we need one liner, one shader, and two grips and whatever ink we need for this tattoo, that is at least \$25 there. I explain our shop minimum and that we just can't budge from that or we will have to with everyone else. This young—not very kind—woman proceeds to curse at me telling me that a tattoo that small is worth is \$25 at the *very most*. I try to understand why she thinks that way but then talks shit on tattoo artists and people with ink and we're all going to hell?.... Uhh, I thought you wanted a tattoo lady. Did I just get Saved? ☺



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